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	£25000	187.49	203.98	234.15	298.96	366.13
	£20000	162.29	174.73	198.03	248.96	302.23
8.9% APR VARIABLE	£17500	142.01	152.89	173.28	217.84	264.45
	£15000	121.72	131.05	148.52	186.72	226.67
9.9% APR VARIABLE	£10000	87.48	93.32	104.52	129.49	155.86
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35000	262.49	327.81	418.54	512.59	704.13	
30000	243.44	297.04	373.43	453.34	616.83	8.9% APR (VARIABLE)
27500	223.15	272.29	342.32	415.56	565.42	
25000	202.86	247.53	311.20	377.78	514.02	
20000	174.97	209.04	258.97	311.72	420.19	9.9% APR (VARIABLE)
17500	153.10	182.91	226.60	272.76	367.67	
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ALL GOLD FOR PIPE

PUNTERS are going for a touch of Gold in Saturday's Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury.

At yesterday's five-day declaration stage 19 horses stood their ground but punters were only really interested in one horse - Martin Pipe's Paddy Power Gold Cup winner Celestial Gold.

Coral reported the six-year-old being their biggest ante post gamble of the jump season so far.

Forced

"From the moment we opened this morning punters have been piling their cash on Celestial Gold. We cut him to 4-1 after an hour but were forced to go 7-2 at noon as the money kept pouring in," said Simon Clare, Coral Spokesman.

"He will cost us a quarter of a million pound payout if he wins on Saturday," added Clare.

Pipe could also be represented by Bettfred Gold Cup victor Puntal and the

by PETER THICKETT

novice Vodka Bleu, but he has taken out Thebarbandit and Stormy Weather. Royal Ascot, formerly trained by Pipe, is the only horse from the Paul Nicholls stable, who sent out Strong Flow to easily win the race 12 months ago.

The sole Irish runner Nil Desperandum will be partnered by Mick Fitzgerald while amateur rider David Dundson will be on his own horse Joly Bey, who was reported to be in fine shape by his trainer Nick Gifford.

VCbet are 3-1 with Celestial Gold but there has also been money for Joly Bey (6s with Ladbrokes and 11-2 with Tote-spot).

Totesport spokesman Damian Walker added: "Punters failed to land a massive gamble last season after Joly Bey fell when cantering in the Topham - this could be their chance for some pay-back."

Vernons POOLS BY PETER THICKETT

OUR Vernons Pundit Pools Charity Challenge continues this week

The Daily Star has got together with the pools giants to try to raise cash for charity.

Each week a guest tipster will give his 11 score draw predictions for the coming Saturday and all the prize money they get will be donated to the charity of their choice. Last week former Liverpool and Scotland star Ian St John drew a blank when there were few draws on the coupon.

This week it's back to former Manchester City player Gary Owen, who does a lot of

radio work, and his chosen charity is Destination Florida whose aim is to relieve the need of children with life threatening diseases and disabled children and in particular to assist them to have holidays in such places as Florida.

His 11 selections are: 4 Soton v Crystal P; 7 Coventry v Crewe; 11 Preston v Derby; 12 Reading v Wigan; 14 Sheffield Utd v Wolves; 15 Stoke v Sunderland; 26 Stockport v Walsall; 31 Lincoln v Yeovil; 34 Rochdale v Boston; 35 Rushden v Macclesfield; 38 Wycombe v Bristol Rovers.

BARCLAYS Premier		19 Bristol C v Sheff Wed	X
1 Birmingham v Norwich	1	20 Chesterfield v Swindon	2
2 Bolton v Portsmouth	2	21 Hartlepool v Bourn'm'th	1
3 Charlton v Chelsea	2	22 Hudd'field v Wrexham	1
4 Southampton v Crystal P	1	23 Hull v Brentford	1
5 West Brom v Man Utd	2	24 Luton v Doncaster	2
COCA-COLA CHAMPIONSHIP		25 Peterboro' v Port Vale	1
6 Burnley v Millwall	X	26 Stockport v Walsall	2
7 Coventry v Crewe	X	27 Torquay v Colchester	2
8 Gillingham v Nottm F	2	28 Tranmere v MK Dons	1
9 Ipswich v Brighton	1	COCA-COLA LEAGUE 2	
10 Leicester v Plymouth	2	29 Chester v Oxford U	1
11 Preston v Derby	1	30 Kid'minster v Northamp'tn	2
12 Reading v Wigan	X	31 Lincoln v Yeovil	X
13 Rotherham v Leeds	P	32 Mansfield v Leyton O	X
14 Sheff Utd v Wolves	1	33 Notts Co v Cambridge U	X
15 Stoke v Sunderland	2	34 Rochdale v Boston	2
16 West Ham v Watford	1	35 Rushden v Macclesfield	X
COCA-COLA LEAGUE 1		36 Scunthorpe v Shrewsbury	1
17 Barnsley v Blackpool	X	37 Swansea v Bury	1
18 Bradford C v Oldham	1	38 Wycombe v Bristol R	X

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1.50 (2m): 1, EDDIES JEWELL (R Winston 7-1); 2, Pererin (Q Quinn 9-2); 3, Tojowski (J P McDonald 3-1); 4, Pagan Storm 11-4 fav 1/11, Shd 11 ran. J. Wainwright, Malton.

2.40 (7m): 1, CLEARING SKY (E Ahern 20-1); 2, Sweet Pickle (O Uthman 14-1); 3, Oases (N Callan 8-1); 4, Captain Cloudy 5-1 fav 1/4, Shd 13 ran. J. Boyd, Epsom.

2.20 (2m): 1, CARRYONHARRY (Mr A Glenbury 7-2); 2, Midnight Gunner (Mr T J Dwyer 12-1); 3, Tribal Dancer (Mr L Stephens 15-2); 4, Finbar's Revenge 5-2 fav 2/1, Dis 6 ran. M. Pipe, Wellington.

2.10 (1m 50c): 1, BIENHEUREUX (J Morgan 6-1); 2, Tropical Son (S Whitworth 8-1); 3, Galaxy River (A Quinn 9-2); 4, Miss Moreena 4-1 fav 1/4, Shd 13 ran. Miss G. Kelleway, Newmarket.

2.00 (1m 50c): 1, JUST BETH (D Lavery 6-1); 2, Off The Seal (T J Murphy 10-1); 3, Korous Des Obeaux (J. E. McCall 7-1); 4, Dem Lion, Queen Hills 9-2 fav 1/4, 1/4, 10 ran. G. Ferro, Hedsor.

3.40 (1m 20c): 1, LARAD (E Ahern 3-1 fav); 2, Indian Blaze (J F McDonald 20-1); 3, Summerise (Don McKeown 4-1); 4, Hd 1/4, 14 ran. J. S. Moore, Hungerford.

2.50 (1m): 1, DIAMOND ORCHID (O McPhail 20-1); 2, Irish Legend (A Thornton 80-1); 3, The Duke (M. A. Fitzgerald 3-1); 4, Salsalino 8-11 fav 1/4, 6/13 ran. A. Forbes, Uttoxeter.

2.20 (2m 10c): 1, CARRYONHARRY (Mr A Glenbury 7-2); 2, Midnight Gunner (Mr T J Dwyer 12-1); 3, Tribal Dancer (Mr L Stephens 15-2); 4, Finbar's Revenge 5-2 fav 2/1, Dis 6 ran. M. Pipe, Wellington.

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SOUTHWELL 09055 141 603 (613)

12.10 BET DIRECT FOOTBALL CASHBACKS H'CAP (Div 1) Class 4 6f (14 runners) £2,992

1 (13)	002-03	MUKTASB (6) Shaw 9.5	N Callan	16
2 (1)	000036	ST IVIN (4)(C,D,A,P) Mrs N Macaulay 4.9.5	L Fletcher	3
3 (4)	6326165	KENIPAT (20)(D,F,P) R Guest 3.9.4	E Ahern	45
4 (1)	650044	SHAP HAT (12)(C,D,A,F,G,S) O Chapman 10.9.2	A Cullane	50
5 (10)	5-00011	GLENCLEIN STAR (1)(D,A) J. Goides 3.9.7(w)	T Eaves	3
6 (14)	330640	TSARBUCK (20)(C,A) R Cowell 3.9.0	A Quinn	5
7 (3)	034500	FOOLS ENTIRE (18)(D,A) A. G. Baker 3.9.0	G Baker	38
8 (10)	100045	SIRIA (10)(C,D,A,F) P. S. McDevlin 5.9.0	S W Kelly	3
9 (8)	4304-5	SAFFRON FUTURE (6) R. Hollishead 3.8.13	D Sweeney	42
10 (2)	455042	POLAR HAZE (38)(C,D,C,A,V) J. Pearce 7.8.12	J Quinn	40
11 (6)	654-30	FOXES FUTURE (12)(C,D,A) J. Wymore 3.8.11	P Mulrennan	50
12 (5)	050040	FORMALISE (62)(D,F,P) J. A. G. Oakes 4.8.10	R Thomas	3
13 (12)	434250	NICHOLAS NICKELBY (57)(B,F) M. Pollock 4.8.9	T P. Quailly	50
14 (9)	328320	LAROS (8) J. Bolding 4.8.9	J Edmunds	55

Star Betting: 3-1 Glenclelin Star, 5-2 Sharp Hat, 6-1 Kensington, 7-1 Polar Haze, 10-1 Muktasb, 11-1 Fools Entire, 12-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Formalise (drawn 5) & Glenclelin Star (drawn 10) 10%.

2003: Far Note, 5-12, (A. Cullane, 8-1) S. Bowring, (drawn 2), 16 ran.

STARFORM: GLENCLEIN STAR Danger: Polar Haze

12.40 BET DIRECT DAILY BEST BETS CLAIMING STAKES Class 4 2YO 1m (14 runners) £3,007

1 (3)	060	BROT FORCE (3) Miss H. High 9.5	R FitzPatrick	41
2 (14)	4200013	MOUNT EPHRAIM (3)(A) R. Fisher 9.5	R Hughes	51
3 (6)	660600	FOUR KICK (3)(B) R. J. Jones 9.1	M. Hedges	20
4 (1)	020	BRANSTON PENNY (15) P. Evans 9.0	D McKeown	20
5 (2)	020	MOUDINI BAY (18)(B) R. E. Elliott 9.0	T Hamilton	3
6 (13)	000104	HOWS THAT (3)(B,C,K) R. B. Burke 9.0	N Callan	40
7 (1)	5530	LIEBOW BROWN (14) D. Hays 8.9	S. Dwyer	31
8 (11)	115306	ARBORS LITTLE GIRL (7)(F,G) P. J. M. B. 8.12	A. Daily	68
9 (7)	100	TETRA KING (5) P. H. H. 8.2	M. Flynn	41
10 (3)	30000	COUSIN TIME EILE (27) M. Deane 8.10	J. Evans	10
11 (2)	200000	ITSA MONKEY (69)(B) P. J. M. B. 8.2	T P. Quailly	43
12 (4)	055002	BONGALLO (3) M. Channon 8.4	S. Hitchcock	58
13 (4)	458404	TIP TOES (8) P. J. M. B. 8.9	T. Dean	47
14 (8)	125000	HIAMOV (4) R. Cowell 8.3	J. Quinn	47

Star Betting: 9-1 Gouda, 9-2 Mount Ephraim, 5-10 Hows That, 11-2 Arbors Little Girl, 10-1 Tip Toes, 12-1 Branston Penny, 14-1 Houdini Bay, 16-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Hiamov (drawn 8) 14%, Houdini Bay (drawn 5) 51%.

2003: Myannabanna, 9-1, (M. Fenton, 5-1) Miss G. Kelleway, (drawn 11), 14 ran.

STARFORM: MOUNT EPHRAIM Danger: Tip Toes

1.10 MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES Class 4 2YO 7f (14 runners) £3,049

1 (5)	060	BOLD CHERAK (M) Channon 9.0	A. Cullane	20
2 (1)	060	BUSTER HYPERION (F) Farnham 9.0	J. D. Smith	20
3 (4)	4	DENNON (16) P. H. H. 9.0	J. Fanning	40
4 (1)	060	EPICES (S) M. Prescott 9.0	S. Archer	7
5 (12)	060	GOLDEN SQUARE (46) B. Hays 9.0	S. Dwyer	31
6 (2)	060	KEEP ME WARM (24) W. P. H. 9.0	S. Dwyer	31
7 (3)	060	PARTY BOSS (12) C. B. Hays 9.0	R. Hughes	30
8 (13)	060	SUDDEN EDGE (H) C. Hays 9.0	D. Sweeney	42
9 (1)	060	TIGER BROWN (14) P. H. H. 9.0	M. Flynn	41
10 (10)	060	BLUE OTIS (20) M. H. Sweeney 9.0	G. Baker	38
11 (9)	060	ESKIMO'S NEST (11) W. Hays 8.9	S. W. Kelly	28
12 (7)	060	NEIL'S LEGACY (M) P. H. H. 8.9	T. Hamilton	3
13 (2)	060	NORTON ROSE (12) J. F. Hays 8.9	S. Dwyer	31
14 (4)	060	SMALL TIME BLUES (55) M. Pollock 8.9	R. FitzPatrick	41

Star Betting: 3-1 Eskimo's Nest, 9-2 Party Boss, 6-1 Buster Hyvonon, 10-1 Tiger Brown, 11-1 Blue Otis, 12-1 Sudden Edge, 13-1 others.

BEST DRAWN: Dennick (drawn 6) & Norton Rose (drawn 2) 13%.

2003: Benny The Ball, 9-0, (M. Morgan, 10-11 fav) N. Littmorden, (drawn 8), 14 ran.

STARFORM: PARTY BOSS Danger: Keep Me Warm

1.40 BETDIRECT.COM AUCTION SELLING STAKES Class 4 2YO 1m (14 runners) £2,832

4	(14)	001560	MEGABOND (3)(F)(P)	C Dwyer 3.9.4	D Fox	5
5	(1)	0-4410	NATUCKET SOUND (J17)(F)(B)	M Pipes 3.9.4	E Aherm	46
6	(13)	002423	ASH BOLD (29)(B)	S Ellison 7.9.0	T Eaves	3
7	(4)	050005	CAPTAIN DARLING (3)(F)(B)	R Cowell 4.9.0	A Quinn	5
8	(7)	105-00	PUP'S PRIDE (12)(C,D,C,D,A,V)	Mrs N Macaulay 7.9.0	A Cullane	52
9	(1)	024-10	FIZZY LADY (14)(A,C,F,T)	N Barry 3.8.13	P Doe	41
10	(5)	5-0000	WALL STREET RUNNER (20)(V)	C Dwyer 3.8.13	P Cosgrave	23
11	(1)	032-00	CHARIOT (12)	W Hays 3.8.12	G Baker	38
12	(1)	25-0000	GOAL (4)	A Hales 3.8.12	N Chalmers	3
13	(10)	000000	MYANNABANNA (24)(C,D,C,A,B)	J Wymore 3.8.12	P Mulrennan	50
14	(12)	20-0030	WEET AN HAIL (20)(C,A,V)	P Bockley 3.8.12	R Hughes	30

BEST DRAWN: Myannabanna (drawn 8) 14%, Nantucket Sound (drawn 5) 11%.

2003: No corresponding race.

STARFORM: AIR MAIL Danger: Constable Burton

TONY MCCOY plans to return to the saddle tomorrow - just over a week after dislocating his thumb at Folkestone. It was at first feared he would be out for much longer but now his intended return means he will get a few days match practice before Newbury's Hennessy meeting on Saturday, where he is due to ride First Gold in the big race itself, as well as Baracuda in the Ballymore Properties Long Distance Hurdle. GINGER MCCAIN has revealed that he would retire at the end of the season should Amberleigh House give him a fifth Grand National success next spring.

YESTERDAY'S WINNERS AND PRICES

LINGFIELD

1.10 (70c): 1, TOMOREL (N Mackay 11-4); 2, Precious Sammi (N Callan 20-1); 3, Goggeter Girl (I Morgan 12-1); 4, Tharus 6-4 fav 2/4, 1/11, 13 ran. M. Tompkins, Newmarket.

2.40 (70c): 1, HAMMER OF THE GODS (N Callan 7-2 fav); 2, Safrina (Ann Skelton 14-1); 3, Ballygiffin (I Morgan 6-1); 4, 1/1, 9 ran. J. C. Poulton, Newmarket.

2.50 (1m): 1, EDDIES JEWELL (R Winston 7-1); 2, Pererin (Q Quinn 9-2); 3, Tojowski (J P McDonald 3-1); 4, Pagan Storm 11-4 fav 1/11, Shd 11 ran. J. Wainwright, Malton.

2.20 (2m): 1, CARRYONHARRY (Mr A Glenbury 7-2); 2, Midnight Gunner (Mr T J Dwyer 12-1); 3, Tribal Dancer (Mr L Stephens 15-2); 4, Finbar's Revenge 5-2 fav 2/1, Dis 6 ran. M. Pipe, Wellington.

2.10 (1m 50c): 1, BIENHEUREUX (J Morgan 6-1); 2, Tropical Son (S Whitworth 8-1); 3, Galaxy River (A Quinn 9-2); 4, Miss Moreena 4-1 fav 1/4, Shd 13 ran. Miss G. Kelleway, Newmarket.

2.00 (1m 50c): 1, JUST BETH (D Lavery 6-1); 2, Off The Seal (T J Murphy 10-1); 3, Korous Des Obeaux (J. E. McCall 7-1); 4, Dem Lion, Queen Hills 9-2 fav 1/4, 1/4, 10 ran. G. Ferro, Hedsor.

3.40 (1m 20c): 1, LARAD (E Ahern 3-1 fav); 2, Indian Blaze (J F McDonald 20-1); 3, Summerise (Don McKeown 4-1); 4, Hd 1/4, 14 ran. J. S. Moore, Hungerford.

2.50 (1m): 1, DIAMOND ORCHID (O McPhail 20-1); 2, Irish Legend (A Thornton 80-1); 3, The Duke (M. A. Fitzgerald 3-1); 4, Salsalino 8-11 fav 1/4, 6/13 ran. A. Forbes, Uttoxeter.

2.20 (2m 10c): 1, CARRYONHARRY (Mr A Glenbury 7-2); 2, Midnight Gunner (Mr T J Dwyer 12-1); 3, Tribal Dancer (Mr L Stephens 15-2); 4, Finbar's Revenge 5-2 fav 2/1, Dis 6 ran. M. Pipe, Wellington.

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2.20 (2m 10c): 1, CARRYONHARRY (Mr A Glenbury 7-2); 2, Midnight Gunner (Mr T J Dwyer 12-1); 3, Tribal Dancer (Mr L Stephens 15-2); 4, Finbar's Revenge 5-2 fav 2/1, Dis 6 ran. M. Pipe, Wellington.

2.10 (1m 50c): 1, BIENHEUREUX (J Morgan 6-1); 2, Tropical Son (S Whitworth 8-1); 3, Galaxy River (A Quinn 9-2); 4, Miss Moreena 4-1 fav 1/4, Shd 13 ran. Miss G. Kelleway, Newmarket.

2.00 (1m 50c): 1, JUST BETH (D Lavery 6-1); 2, Off The Seal (T J Murphy 10-1); 3, Korous Des Obeaux (J. E. McCall 7-1); 4, Dem Lion, Queen Hills 9-2 fav 1/4, 1/4, 10 ran. G. Ferro, Hedsor.

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STAR RACING AT THE RACES

TONY LEWIS STAR TIP

WIN £1000'S

FOOTBALL'S NO.1 FANTASY GAME

THERE was another cracking weekend of matches that produced plenty of points for Star Fantasy Football managers.

The top scorer this week was Damien Francis with 22 points. He helped Norwich to their first league win of the season with two goals. Hot on his heels was Chris Riggott who scored and kept a clean sheet to earn himself 21 points in Middlesbrough's win over Liverpool. The latest winners to take

advantage of these results are Mr J Rich, from Bath, who walks away with a cool £250 by scoring 114 points as well as pocketing £150 by scoring 106 points, and Mr A Bennett, from Durham, who wins £100 after scoring 100 points.

With three prizes on offer every week, it could be your turn next.

To help you on your way to winning our £20,000 jackpot, plus one of our three weekly prizes, don't forget to make the best

use of your transfers. You can make 16 transfers at any time during the season (up to four in any one week). Simply call our premium rate phone line 0905 072 3072 or log on to our website:

www.starfantasyfootball.co.uk

You can also check out your latest score and position by calling the same number.

Keep track of your team every Tuesday when we print the cumulative, as well as weekly, points scored for each player.

FACTFILE

Name: Damien Francis
Club: Norwich
Position: Midfielder
Price: £3.6m

TOP 10 MANAGERS

1	Minor Threat B	Mr Shipley	996
2	Switz's Stars	Mr Switzer	990
3	Fozzles 03	Mr Foster	980
4	Bul	Mr Ferris	973
5	J Swirles XI 4th	Mr Swirles	968
6	JL Swirles XI	Mr Swirles	965
7	Immolation	Mr Dolan	962
8	Namada City	Mrs Gibson	957
9	Marks Monsters	Mr Murnaghan	955
10	Ss1	Mr Ferris	951
11	Muppets 4	Mr Patel	951

TOP 5 SYNDICATES

1	Swirles League	JL Swirles	939
2	Swirles League	JL Swirles	936
3	Muppets	D Patel	914
4	Tyrone	PJ O'Neill	888
5	The Maine League	Ms Philips	883

SCOREBOARD

ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	ID	Player name	Team	Value	Weekly Score	Total Score	
Goalkeepers																								
101	J Lehmann	ARS	5.5	2	66	349	I Campo	BOL	3.6	3	26	522	JJ Okocha	BOL	4.0	3	44	Strikers						
102	T Howard	MUN	5.5	1	16	350	N Hunt	FUL	3.6	1	50	523	M Holland	CHA	4.0	3	25	701	Y Henry	ARS	10.0	3	143	
103	C Cudicini	CHE	5.2	0	0	351	C Bozanga	FUL	3.6	2	38	595	X Alonso	LIV	4.0	1	25	702	R Van Nistelroo	MUN	9.5	4	46	
104	P Cech	CHE	5.2	1	35	352	S Finnian	LIV	3.6	1	59	524	Edu	ARS	3.9	1	15	703	A Shearer	NEW	9.0	8	69	
105	J Dudek	LIV	5.1	0	30	353	A O'Brien	NEW	3.6	1	48	528	B Emerson	BLR	3.9	3	60	704	J Rayes	ARS	7.8	1	78	
106	S Given	NEW	5.0	11	41	354	J Van Damme	SOT	3.6	1	17	532	J Jensen	EVN	3.9	3	60	708	J Angel	AVL	7.8	-	51	
107	T Sorensen	AVL	4.9	0	53	357	D Richards	SOT	3.6	0	0	529	J Cole	CHE	3.9	4	46	709	E Gudjohnsen	CHE	7.8	-	74	
108	E van der Sar	FUL	4.8	0	25	358	C Short	BLR	3.5	0	8	530	G Graveney	WBA	3.9	1	98	710	J O'Grady	CRY	7.7	-	81	
109	M Schwarzer	MID	4.8	11	61	360	P Konchesky	CHA	3.5	0	40	531	R Keane	MUN	3.9	4	41	710	L Salha	MUN	7.7	-	21	
110	D Kely	CHA	4.7	1	55	361	M Albrechtsen	WBA	3.5	0	0	536	K Nolan	BOL	3.8	1	53	711	M Forsnell	MAN	7.4	-	11	
111	A Niameni	SOT	4.7	0	36	362	L Amoroso	BLR	3.4	0	22	538	D Rommedahl	CHA	3.8	1	16	712	L Anelika	BIR	7.4	-	13	
112	P Robinson	SOT	4.7	0	55	40	J Clapham	NOR	3.5	0	0	533	Giberto Silva	ARS	3.8	13	53	713	A Smith	CRY	7.3	-	59	
122	R Carroll	MUN	4.7	11	44	363	L Helsing	NOR	3.5	0	0	6	534	B Ferguson	BLR	3.8	3	55	714	W Rooney	MUN	7.1	-	64
113	Mark Taylor	BLR	4.6	0	52	364	L Amoroso	BLR	3.4	0	22	536	K Nolan	BOL	3.8	1	53	715	M Baros	UV	7.1	-	74	
114	N Marjny	EVN	4.6	0	94	365	J Nubo	EVN	3.4	0	22	537	V Djordjevic	BLR	3.8	1	53	716	T Vassell	NEW	7.1	-	44	
115	J Jaaskelainen	BOL	4.5	1	42	366	T Hibbert	EVN	3.4	11	97	538	C Jensen	FUL	3.8	1	52	717	D Cisse	LIV	7.0	-	42	
116	S Hislop	POR	4.4	0	49	367	R Dunne	MAN	3.4	5	47	539	A Sierenski	MAN	3.8	14	52	718	J Beattie	SOT	6.9	-	8	
117	B Friedel	WBA	4.3	0	19	368	C Riggott	MID	3.4	21	70	540	B Zenden	MID	3.8	12	80	719	A Smith	CRY	6.5	-	44	
118	R Green	NOR	4.3	5	34	369	J Brennan	POR	3.4	0	2	541	P Banger	POR	3.8	1	61	720	A Mutu	CHE	6.8	-	55	
119	R Hout	WBA	4.2	2	21	370	D Stefanovic	POR	3.4	0	38	542	J Redknapp	SOT	3.8	26	79	721	M Kezman	CHE	6.8	-	1	
120	K Kiraly	CRY	4.2	1	27	371	P Pesanen	POR	3.4	0	0	543	M Brown	WBA	3.8	1	16	722	Kluvert	NEW	6.8	-	37	
120	C Berthelin	CRY	4.1	0	0	372	D Purse	WBA	3.4	2	0	544	J Kourmas	WBA	3.8	1	13	723	D Vassell	NEW	6.8	-	11	
Defenders																								
301	S Hypia	LIV	5.5	1	56	373	T Gaardsoe	WBA	3.4	3	21	545	L Hendrie	AVL	3.8	1	62	722	GQ Solskjaer	MUN	6.7	-	37	
302	S Campbell	ARS	5.4	1	56	374	D Matteo	BLR	3.4	1	54	546	T Hitzlsperger	AVL	3.7	4	58	723	T Radzinski	LIV	6.5	-	35	
303	J Terry	CHE	5.3	1	103	375	T el Karouk	CHA	3.4	1	52	547	C Malelele	CHE	3.7	3	58	724	J Kallstrom	POR	6.4	-	69	
304	M Silvestre	MUN	5.2	11	94	404	E Edman	SOT	3.4	4	52	548	J McFadden	EVN	3.7	3	45	725	D Bermpas	ARS	6.3	-	1	
305	W Gallas	CHE	5.1	1	64	405	N Parnatort	SOT	3.4	4	46	549	S Davis	SOT	3.7	1	21	726	K Phillips	CRY	6.3	-	40	
306	A Cole	ARS	5.0	2	64	406	S Charlton	NOR	3.4	5	43	550	S Lagwinski	FUL	3.7	1	21	727	F Kanoute	SOT	6.3	-	31	
307	W Bridge	CHE	4.9	0	39	375	C Fleming	POR	3.3	11	11	551	D Hannan	MUN	3.7	1	19	728	J Hendrick	BLR	6.1	-	64	
308	G Heinze	MUN	4.8	0	54	376	M Fish	CHA	3.3	0	15	552	S McLennan	MAN	3.7	1	19	729	K Davies	BOL	6.1	-	11	
401	R Carvalho	CHE	4.8	1	85	377	B Bramble	CRY	3.3	0	0	553	T Sinclair	MAN	3.7	1	19	730	S Heskey	BIR	6.0	-	48	
310	G Neville	MUN	4.6	0	48	378	B Thatcher	MAN	3.3	3	51	554	S Sinclair	EVN	3.7	3	63	731	A Johnson	FUL	6.0	-	83	
311	P Ferreira	CHE	4.4	1	89	379	M McKay	NOR	3.3	11	11	555	F Fernandez	SOT	3.7	3	69	732	T Forster	MAN	6.0	-	7	
312	K Toure	ARS	4.3	2	66	380	C MacKay	NOR	3.3	8	43	556	R Sneloart	LIV	3.7	3	39	733	S Ameobi	NEW	6.0	-	14	
313	Lauren	ARS	4.3	2	79	381	A De Zeeuw	CRY	3.3	0	0	557	C Morrison	BIR	3.7	3	39	734	C Morrison	BIR	5.9	-	1	
314	R Ferdinand	MAN	4.3	11	62	382	M Primus	POR	3.3	0	22	558	J Boateng	WBA	3.7	3	39	735	R Butt	CRY	5.9	-	4	
315	G Barry	AVL	4.2	0	35	383	A De Zeeuw	CRY	3.3	0	22	596	L Garcia	LIV	3.7	3	70	736	J Milner	NEW	5.8	-	29	
316	J O Shea	MUN	4.2	6	37	384	L Primus	POR	3.3	1	36	597	M Carrick	TOT	3.7	3	12	736	J Stead	BLR	5.8	-	42	
317	S Hernandez	CRY	4.1	0	0	385	M Tanicco	SOT	3.3	0	52	598	D Carrick	BIR	3.6	3	32	737	J Johnson	CRY	5.8	-	80	
318	G Southgate	MID	4.1	11	63	386	R Jaadi	CRY	3.2	0	0	599	R Carrick	BIR	3.6	11	48	738	J Johnson	CRY	5.8	-	70	
319	J Carragher	LIV	4.1	6	37	387	R Tanicco	SOT	3.3	11	48	558	S Lazarevic	BLR	3.6	1	32	739	D Huckerby	NOR	5.8	-	65	
320	E Higney	MID	4.0	1	55	388	A Drury	NOR	3.2	5	35	559	G Boateng	WBA	3.6	1	16	740	T Luta Lu	POR	5.8	-	32	
321	L King	TOT	4.0	0	65	389	T Popovic	CRY	3.2	1	40	560	J de Pedro	BLR	3.6	1	74	741	R van Persie	ARS	5.7	-	1	
322	O Mellberg	AVL	3.9	0	84	390	A Griffin	POR	3.2	0	21	561	K Wilson	EVN	3.6	9	76	742	J Luta Lu	POR	5.7	-	39	
323	M Usson	BLR	3.9	0	65	391	B Hous	WBA	3.2	11	56	562	G Petrov	BLR	3.6	16	79	743	R van Persie	ARS	5.7	-	1	
324	F Quedrue	MID	3.9	11	62	392	T Popovic	CRY	3.1	1	40	563	G Boateng	MID	3.6	6	72	744	H Pedersen	BOL	5.6	-	3	
325	O Bernard	NEW	3.9	11	34	393	D Granville	CRY	3.0	1	53	564	J Greening	WBA	3.6	6	51	745	B McBride	FUL	5.6	-	123	
326	C Lundekvam	SOT	3.9	1	41	394	G Brannwald	CRY	3.0	0	0	565	D Francis	NOR	3.6	22	74	746	B McBride	FUL	5.6	-	9	
327	M Svensson	SOT	3.8	0	0	395	R Scames	WBA	3.0	2	23	566	E Berkeovic	POR	3.6	1	30	747	B Ormerod	SOT	5.6	-	3	
328	M Laursen	AVL	3.8	0	2	501	R Pires	ARS	5.5	11	92	567	S Stones	POR	3.6	1	16	748	D Bentley	NOR	5.5	-	25	
329	Marin Taylor	BLR	3.8	0	2	502	F Lampard	LIV	5.4	6	112	568	J Gray	BLR	3.5	3	41	749	M Pahrus	SOT	5.4	-	0	
330	G Naysmith	FUL	3.8	0	11	503	I Hart	LIV	5.3	1	34	569	S Giannakopoulos	BOL	3.5	1	48	777	N Ventola	CRY	5.4	-	5	
331	A Goma	FUL	3.8	0	11	504	R Giggs	MUN	5.2	14	69	570	L Clark	HV	3.5	0	750	778	T Larsson	CRY	5.3	-	47	
332	Z Knight	FUL	3.8	2	42	505	D Duff	CHE	5.1	9	34	571	J Barton	MAN	3.5	6	30	779	L Forsberg	POR	5.3	-	3	
333	A Hughes	NEW	3.8	11	39	506	P Scholtes	MUN	4.9	3	34	572	G Speed	BOL	3.5	6	58	751	P Dickov	BLR	5.2	-	64	
334	J Dodd	CRY	3.8	1	8	507	S Malbranque	FUL	4.8	3	59	573	D Pruitt	SOT	3.5	3	33	752	J D Job	MID	5.2	-	27	
335	S Carr	NEW	3.8	0	44	508	L Robson	NEW	4.7	9	53	574	R Delap	SOT	3.4	3	34	753	J Todorov	BLR	5.2	-	0	
336	J Lloyd Samuel	AVL	3.7	0	54	509	C Parker	CRY	4.5	0	6	575	P Neville	MUN	3.4	4	18	780	D Yorke	BIR	5.2	-	1	
337	H Hirdarsson	CHA	3.7	1	61	510	D Murphy	CRY	4.4	0	42	576	L Bloyer	NEW	3.4	4	18	755	S Bartlett	CHA	5.1	-	22	
338	M Melchior	CRY	3.7	0	22	511	K Wright-Phillips	MAN	4.4	17	95	577	P Muljine	NOR	3.4	6	7	756	L McKenzie	NOR	5.1	-	9	
339	A Stubbs	EVN	3.7	11	89	512	J Eull	MID	4.2	0	28	578	Jefers	BLR	3.4	6	59	757	Jefers	BLR	5.1	-	33	
340	J A Rise	LIV	3.7	1	72	513	G Mendiet	MID	4.2	0	28	579	A Johnson	WBA	3.4	6	7	758	L Osman	EVN	5.1	-	31	
341	S Distin	MAN	3.7	0	58	514	S Warkler	CRY	4.5	0	6	580	R Parfior	MID	3.4	6	58	759	G Horsfield	WBA	5.0	-	121	
342	W Brown	POR	3.7	11	42	515	J Eull	CHA	4.2	0	28	581	S Oregan	WBA	3.3	1	32	760	D Hargreaves	WBA	5.0	-	5	
343	M Taylor	POR	3.7	1	12	516	S Davies	SOT	4.1	0	18	582	P Teller	SOT	3.3	1	32	761	P McShane	NOR	4.9	-	15	
344	G Le Sax	SOT	3.7	1	26	517	C Ronaldo	MUN	4.2	0	42	583	T Black	CRY	3.1	0	34	762	N Shipperley	CRY	4.8	-	0	
345	A Gardner	TOT	3.7	0	22	518	A Robben	CHE	4.1	6	45	584	G Holt	NOR	3.1	0	34	763	M Svensson	NOR	4.8	-	28	
402	Joemeli	TOT	3.7	-1	18	519	S Davies	CHE	4.1	6	45	585	J Gera	WBA	3.2	3	23	764	D Freedman	CRY	4.6	-	1	
346	C Fierio	BOL	3.6	0	32	520	R Black	CRY	4.0	12	70	586	T Gera	WBA	3.2	3	23	765	R Pouchot	SOT	4.6	-	1	
347	K Cunningham	BLR	3.6	0	24	521	P Vieira	ARS	4.0	3	52	587	S Derry	CRY	3.0	0	9	766	R Hulse	WBA	4.5	-	11	
348	B Nigoty	BOL	3.6	0	56	522	D Dunn	BIR	4.0	12	70	588	J Gera	WBA	3.2	3	23							

TEXT MANIACS

Text Dsport followed by a space, then your name & comment, and send to 61616. Texts cost 25p plus your normal mobile operator cost.

- ☐ I don't all u english stop worrying about abuse from fans and concentrate on football. u wer awful. wait til u cum 2 wales. willy cfc
- ☐ Who does shearer think he is 2 demand anything. Wots he ever done for club or england? Leave wayne alone. **Ady, Wrexham**
- ☐ ANOTHER MAN U WITCH HUNT OR WOT? GET OFF THE BAND-WAGON U GIMPS! IF HESKEY GOT ROONEYS ENGLAND SHIRT YOU'D B CRYIN 4 HIM BACK! **BUZZ**
- ☐ rooney u dont deserve 2 wear the ENGLAND top ur a disgrace 2 english football 4 chucking ur armband on the floor in memory ov elymn hughes! **Dan AV**
- ☐ wot rooney did was wrong but its you lot that need to grow up he is best prospect for england and you want him dropped bunch of t***s. **kris**
- ☐ yes spain should be banned from world cup being racist if it was england it will be hell played over it. **philip rhys**
- ☐ I can understand people gettin at Rooney for the way he played but everyone is blowing the arm band thing way out of proportion. he just threw a bit of a paddy, get over it. **quinn MUFC**
- ☐ People should get off rooney's back, the armband thing was heat of the moment and at least he showed some passion! **keith, wirral**
- ☐ to all black players: when your abused by scum like the spanish remember decent people love to see you play. come on fa dont stand for it. **steve nufc**
- ☐ Wots this crap abt great geordie atmosphere? Outgoing all game by Mancs Worst home support every year. **Johnny Red**

RUGBY UNION: Dallaglio hails Robbo's rout of Africa

ENGLAND BOK ON TRACK



ONE FOR THE FUTURE: Harry Ellis shone in his England cameo

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO last night hailed England's new-look side after their demolition of South Africa – then told the Springboks: You were lucky.

The 32-year-old former England skipper relished the chance to watch his former team-mates in action.

And after a dismal 12 months since their World Cup Final victory, Dallaglio reckons Saturday's display has put England back on track.

The London Wasps star expected Andy Robinson's team to do the business over South Africa but admitted he was surprised by the emphatic manner of the 32-16 win.

And he said Australia could struggle to compete with England on Saturday if they also try to play their own brand of Super 12 rugby in British winter conditions.

Emphatic

Dallaglio said: "England played fantastically and to be honest, the scoreline flattered South Africa – they were lucky to score 16."

"The result was not a surprise for those of us who know England rugby but we didn't expect it to be as emphatic as it was."

"They didn't put England under any pressure and it shows you can't come up here and just play Super 12 rugby in our conditions. You are likely to come unstuck."

"Everyone was writing

■ by DEAN WILSON

off England's chances after the summer. That is not happening now, even after one result."

With Ireland beating the Springboks the previous week and Wales coming within a point of the All Blacks, Dallaglio believes the platform is being laid for the most competitive Six Nations yet.

With a Lions tour to New Zealand to come at the end of the season, the Wasps skipper knows home nations rugby will be as good as it has ever been.

He added: "The Six Nations is certainly going to be interesting because Ireland will fancy their chances, having England and France at home."

"And nobody expects Wales to run the All Blacks so close. Not to mention that France – tipped as future world champions – lost to Argentina."

Chance

"So the Six Nations could be one of the most competitive we've had so far."

As well as a resounding victory to enjoy, the Twickenham crowd also got a glimpse of the man fancied to become England's scrum-half for years to come.

Leicester's Harry Ellis came on for the final 15 minutes and former Lion Rob Howley backed the 22-year-old to claim a summer spot.

Howley said: "If he takes his chance, he could be in the frame for the Lions."



FARRELL: Ultimate award

Golden Andy is best by Farr

■ by PETER WILSON

ANDY FARRELL has added the biggest individual title of all to his collection after being named the best player in world rugby league.

The Great Britain skipper – already Super League's Man of Steel – received the Gillette Golden Boot last night from former Lions captain Ellery Hanley, the only other British player to lift the award in his 20-year history when he won it in 1989.

Crowned

Farrell, 29, beat off current Golden Boot holder Darren Lockyer and Shane Webcke, two Australians he will face in Saturday's Tri-Nations final at Eland Road.

After joining his hometown club Wigan at the age of 16, Farrell became a full international at 21 and has captained Britain in every Test since 1996.

Saturday's match at Leeds will be his 34th cap. It was a night of double celebration for the British camp ahead of the Leeds showdown as Brian Noble was crowned International Coach of the Year.

Completing a hat-trick of British title-winners, Russell Smith was Referee of the Year, while New Zealander Sonny Bill Williams held off some stiff competition to be named Newcomer of the Year.

WIN A drive with Colin McRae at THE RACE OF CHAMPIONS



YOUR racing-mad Daily Star has teamed up with British Eurosport to give one lucky reader the fantastic opportunity to be Colin McRae's co-driver as he races against the best drivers in the world.

One winner plus a friend will rub shoulders with legends and enjoy the high-speed action at the unique Race of Champions at the Stade de France in Paris.

Shown exclusively live on British Eurosport from 3.30pm on Saturday, December 4, you will get the chance to ride alongside McRae, who won the WRC title in 1995.

The Scot joins F1 stars Michael Schumacher, David Coulthard and Jean Alesi, plus rally champions Sebastian Loeb and Marcus Grönholm in the 17th Race of Champions.

The 80,000-seater stadium will be transformed into an awesome racetrack that pits drivers head-to-head in identical cars to ensure skill alone produces the winner, who will be crowned Champion of Champions. And

you could be there! To enter, simply answer this question: In which year did Colin McRae win the World Rally Championship – a)1995, b)1997 or c)1999?

Text RALLY followed by your answer, name, address and phone number to 88833. Texts cost £1.50p per message plus your usual text tariff. Or email your details to competitions@dailystar.co.uk with Eurosport in the subject heading.

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To find out more about this exciting event, simply visit www.raceofchampions.com

The winner will be picked at random from all entries received by midnight tomorrow. Please state on your email if you do not wish to be contacted about other offers from Express Newspapers.

All entrants must be over 18 and pass a medical test to claim the prize, which includes transport to Paris and overnight accommodation. Normal Daily Star rules apply.

BRITISH EUROSPORT

ROC RACE OF CHAMPIONS

Stade de France

Hunter gets Carted out

PAUL HUNTER joined the stunned ranks of world champions Ronnie O'Sullivan, Stephen Hendry and Mark Williams on the road to nowhere at the Travis Perkins UK Championship in York last night.

World No.4 Hunter was beaten 9-8 by All Carter as seven of the top eight seeds failed to reach the quarter-final stage.

Only Paul Ebdon is left of the so-called elite but Carter certainly deserved his last-eight place after being pegged back by Hunter from 8-6 ahead.

In a dramatic final frame, Carter was 56 points ahead before letting in Hunter, who looked set to clear up before missing a tricky brown.

And Carter made sure this time to book a last-eight clash with Joe Perry or Barry Pinches.

On Sunday night.

ANDY FORDHAM'S near-collapse with heat exhaustion during the darts world showdown 'decider' could be a turning point in his life, says Barry Hearn.

Hearn promoted the best-of-13-sets clash between BDO star 'The Viking' and rival PDC world champ Phil Taylor at Purfleet's red-hot Circus Tavern on Sunday night.

And he admitted: "We live in the age of everyone talking about obesity and overweight people and the strain on the heart, which we all know."

"I manage Phil Taylor but you could not call him too much of an athlete."



■ by GEORGE SCOTT

ic figure. But he was ready to play on for as many hours as it took and Andy was not capable of doing it. That is the truth of it."

And Hearn added: "Hopefully, Andy will learn from it. I'd love to see him on the PDC but I don't think he could compete because of his bulk."

"For his sake and his family's sake, he has to look at his physical well-being long term – because there is not going to be a long term if he does not get himself sorted."

On the bright side Fordham will get his £40,000 prize and Taylor the £60,000 winner's cheque.

FAT'S YOUR LOT, ANDY

SERIOUSLY football

Bernard cash threat to Toon

ONLY: PAY UP OR I'M OFF

CONTRACT rebel Olivier Bernard will quit Newcastle in the New Year if the Geordies don't meet his pay demands.

And the Toon defender claims that a string of clubs on the continent are queuing to sign him if he fails to clinch a new deal at St James's Park.

Bernard, who becomes a free agent next summer, is allowed to speak to prospective buyers in January and admits he may have no option but to quit Newcastle.

That would be a savage blow to boss Graeme Souness, who wants to hang on to the 25-year-old Frenchman even though he's planning a massive overhaul of the Toon defence.

Greedy

Bernard's agent David Njok is holding talks with Newcastle chairman Freddy Shepherd this week and the former Lyon full-back is praying they can reach agreement.

The player - who claims to have been in negotiations with the club for more than a year - insisted: "I am not being greedy but I believe I deserve a better deal."

"I do not think I am in the top ten earners at this club and that can't be right."

It was one of the best players in the team last season and just want to be paid what I'm worth.

"It would break my heart to leave Newcastle. I came here four years ago, learnt English here and now I even speak with a Geordie accent."

Interest

"I am 25 years old and should be approaching my peak and want to spend my best years at Newcastle, but sometimes you have to think about your own career."

"I believe in the chairman. He is a good man and I just hope that he looks after me."

"It would be difficult to leave Newcastle but sometimes you have to do things you don't want."

Bernard, a regular in the Toon rearguard for the past three years, revealed there's plenty of

interest in him abroad. He said: "I know there are clubs where I could get even more money than I am asking for here. They are ready to sign me."

"I can't say who those clubs are but I might have to leave if things do not work out here."

Newcastle fly out to France tomorrow for Thursday's UEFA Cup tie against Sochaux and Bernard is hoping for better luck than in his last game back home.

"I was so excited about the Marseille semi-final but it was a bad experience, one of the worst I have had here," he added.

"Like Marseille, Sochaux play very good football, but there must be no repeat of that awful night."

by IAN MURTAGH



LOLLY POP: Bernard has blasted Toon for refusing to cough up a better deal for him - now he has vowed to quit the club if negotiations fail



Crock Shear

TOON ace Alan Shearer (above) has revealed his hamstring injury is worse than first feared.

The Newcastle skipper missed Saturday's win at Crystal Palace after picking up the problem in training.

The 34-year-old was expected to be fit for the UEFA Cup clash with Sochaux, but he has now ruled himself out of Thursday's trip to France - and Sunday's visit of Everton.

But he insists he'll be fit to face Chelsea on Saturday week. He said: "I won't be right for Thursday - but there's a more realistic chance of me being ready for the game at Chelsea."

Information Station

FOOTBALL									
Barclays Premiership					Group C				
Aston Villa	(0)	1	Tottenham	(0)	0	Bayern Munich	v	Maccabi Tel-Aviv	.....
Solano 57			At: 85/702			Juventus	v	Ajax	.....
Chelsea	14	10	3	1	23	6	33		
Arsenal	14	9	4	1	38	18	31		
Everton	14	9	2	3	16	11	29		
Middlesbrough	14	7	4	3	24	16	25		
Aston Villa	14	6	2	20	14	24			
Man Utd	14	6	2	16	10	24			
Bolton	14	6	5	3	22	18	23		
Liverpool	13	6	2	5	21	15	20		
Newcastle	14	5	4	5	26	19			
Charlton	14	5	3	6	17	23	18		
Man City	14	4	5	5	17	14	17		
Portsmouth	13	4	3	6	17	20	15		
Fulham	14	4	2	6	17	25	14		
Birmingham	14	2	7	5	11	14	13		
Tottenham	14	3	4	7	12	17	13		
Crystal Palace	14	3	3	8	15	21	12		
Southampton	14	2	5	7	13	19	11		
Norwich	14	1	8	5	13	24	11		
West Brom	14	1	7	6	13	25	10		
Blackburn	14	1	7	6	14	29	10		
CONFERENCE - North: Ashton Utd 2 Workop 3.									
CRICKET									
FIRST TEST (Kanpur) - Day 3 of 5: South Africa 510-9d (A Hall 163, Z de Bruyn 83; A Kumble 6-131). India 185-0 (G Gambhir 85no, V Sehwag 85no).									
THE SHOWDOWN (Purfleet): P Taylor bt A Fordham 2 (rel).									
SNOOKER									
THE TRAVIS PERKINS UK CHAMPIONSHIP (York) - 3rd Rnd: A Carter (Eng) bt P Hunter (Eng) 9-8, G Dott (Sco) bt A Hicks (Eng) 9-4.									
TENNIS									
MASTERS CUP (Houston) - Final: R Federer (Swi) bt L Hewitt (Aus) 6-3 6-2.									
TODAY'S DIARY									
FOOTBALL									
(7.45 unless stated)									
UEFA Champions League									
Group A									
Monaco	v	Liverpool	.....					
Olympique	v	La Coruna	.....					
Group B									
Dynamo Kiev	v	Roma	.....					
Real Madrid	v	Bayer Leverkusen	.....					
Group C									
Bayern Munich	v	Maccabi Tel-Aviv	.....					
Juventus	v	Ajax	.....					
Group D									
Man Utd	v	Lyon	.....					
Sparta Prague	v	Fenerbahce	.....					
FA Cup 1st Round Replays									
Carlisle	v	Bristol Rovers	.....					
Colchester	v	Mansfield	.....					
Macclesfield	v	Alfreton	.....					
Yeovil	v	Darlington	.....					
Coca-Cola League One									
Torquay	v	Wrexham	.....					
Bank of Scotland Scottish Premier League									
Inverness CT	v	Dundee Utd	.....					
Bell's Scottish League Division One									
Falkirk	v	Partick (7.30)	.....					
Ross County	v	Raith	.....					
Tennent's Scottish Cup - 1st Rnd:									
Morton	v	East Stirling (7.30)	.....					
Glasgow University									
Nationsweek Conference - North:									
Redditch	v	Gainsborough	.....					
Rugby v Barrow	.....							
South: Hornchurch	v	St Albans	.....					
Ryman	.....							
Prem: Dover	v	Harrow	.....					
Northwood	v	Yeading	.....					
Chesham	v	Wokingham	.....					
Wokingham	v	Leyton (7.30)	.....					
Southern	.....							
Prem: King's Lynn	v	Rugby Utd	.....					
Unibond	.....							
Guisley	v	Radcliffe	.....					
CRICKET									
Tour Match (1 day): Namibia v England (Windhoek, Nam).									
First Test - Day 4 of 5: India v South Africa (Kanpur, 4am).									
SNOOKER									
The Travis Perkins UK Championship (York).									
YESTERDAY'S SPORTWORD									
ACROSS: 1 McMenemy, 7 Aaron, 8 Ivory, 9 Hutton, 10 Kiew, 12 Rice, 14 Hingis, 17 Nurse, 18 Keane, 19 Slatery.									
DOWN: 1 Marot, 2 Monzon, 3 Neil, 4 Maori, 5 Katharine, 6 Sylvester, 11 Wilkie, 13 Cyril, 15 Grady, 16 Best.									
5 FOR FUN ANSWERS									
1 Mike Tindall, 2 Mansfield, 3 Northern Ireland, 4 No 6, 5 Jonathan Agnew.									

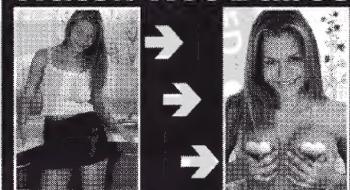
SPORTWORD

- ACROSS**
- Geoff, trainer of 1983 Derby winner Tenoso (5)
 - Martin, Brentford FC manager (5)
 - ... Brown, Manchester United and England defender (3)
 - Rag, 1976 Grand National winner (5)
 - ... Davies, Grand National-winning jockey in 1985 (5)
 - ... Van Nistelrooy, Manchester United and Holland striker (4)
 - ... Lady, winner of the Oaks in 1991 (3,3)
 - Crystal Palace, Arsenal, West Ham United and England striker (6)
 - Brian, England striker who managed Blackburn Rovers (4)
 - Jim, Surrey, Essex and England spinner (5)
 - Merlene, Jamaican-born sprinter (5)
 - ... Shrivers, former Wimbledon doubles specialist (3)
- DOWN**
- Renk, women's Olympic javelin champion in 1992 (5)
 - ... Els, South African golfer (5)
 - Flying, winner of the 1,000 Guineas in 1976 (5)
 - Kris, men's 400 metres hurdles Commonwealth champion in 1990 (7)
 - ... Torrance, women's Olympic 200 metres champion in 1992 (4)
 - ... Cole, Arsenal and England defender (6)
 - ... Society, 1985 Irish Derby winner (3)
 - ... Kim, gymnastics champion at the 1976 and 1980 Olympics (5)
 - England's most capped footballer (7)
 - Surrey and England batsman (6)
 - Men's Olympic 100 metres champion in 1980 (5)
 - Tony, twice the men's cycling five kilometre pursuit world champion (5)
 - ... Park, Plymouth's ground (4)
 - ... Nagle, Open champion in 1960 (3)



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THE FA are to investigate reports of missiles being thrown at Millwall boss Dennis Wise during Sunday's clash with West Ham.

MIDFIELDER Chris Sedgwick has completed a £400,000 switch from Rotherham to Championship rivals Preston.

SHEFFIELD UNITED manager Neil Warnock has targeted Norwich striker Gary Doherty after he failed to land Liverpool's Ian Mellor.

PORTSMOUTH defender David Unsworth has been given a one-match ban following his fifth booking of the season against Manchester City on Saturday.

BARCELONA striker Henrik Larsson will miss the rest of the season after suffering knee ligament damage against Real Madrid on Saturday.

SHAUN DERRY is in line to make his debut in Leeds' midfield against Watford tomorrow after joining from Crystal Palace in a £250,000 deal.

CHARLTON defender Chris Perry is facing a lengthy spell on the sidelines after suffering a groin injury against Manchester United.

QPR manager Ian Holloway has been admitted to hospital for tests after illness almost prevented him from taking charge of the team for the 6-1 weekend defeat at Leeds, while defender Matthew Rose's hamstring injury is likely to keep him out until the New Year.

BRISTOL CITY manager have offered Wigan midfielder Tony Dinning a contract following a one-month loan.

PORTSMOUTH have refused Burnley's bid to extend defender Richard Duffy's loan spell into a third month.

SERIOUSLY football Gerro to come back with a bang

YOU CAN BANK ON ME, BENI

by DAVE LYONS

STEVEN GERRARD is set to make his first start for two months tonight eager to land Liverpool a £5m jackpot in the millionaires' playground of Monte Carlo.

The England midfielder will return as Rafa Benitez's side chase the victory in the Stade Louis II which will seal their passage into the knockout stages of the Champions League with a game to spare.

Gerrard continued his comeback from a broken metatarsal with a 35-minute run out in Saturday's 2-0 Premiership defeat to Middlesbrough following an appearance for the reserves eight days ago.

Boost

The 24-year-old is primed to slot back into midfield as Benitez seeks the win which will clinch Liverpool a windfall and boost the Kop transfer kitty as he looks to sign a striker in the transfer window.

"The Champions League is the ultimate," said Gerrard. "You need luck in any competition, but to win the Champions League you need all kinds of stuff. Experience, great players, a great manager and a team that works hard with everyone pulling together wanting the same thing."

"I think attitude is the most important thing. We're still in



BENITEZ: Short of strikers

it and confident that we can qualify. I don't think many teams underestimate us.

"Watching the Champions League on TV was difficult because I really wanted to be part of it, but sulking wasn't going to help."

"I've had a good rest and tried to take something positive out of it. Hopefully from now to May I'll be fine."

Benitez is once again short on striking options with Milan Baros and Djibril Cisse both injured, but he believes Gerrard's return can help to offset those problems.

"Steven is a great player but he means much more to us than that," said Benitez.

"He is our captain and brings his great spirit and leadership to the team. It is important that he has played two games of

Monaco v Liverpool
ITV2 - 7pm

about 45 minutes. He is fit and his presence is very important for the mentality of the team."

Monaco coach Didier Deschamps, who led France to World Cup success in 1998, admitted Gerrard was the player he feared most and claimed the midfield dynamo can become one of the best players in the world.

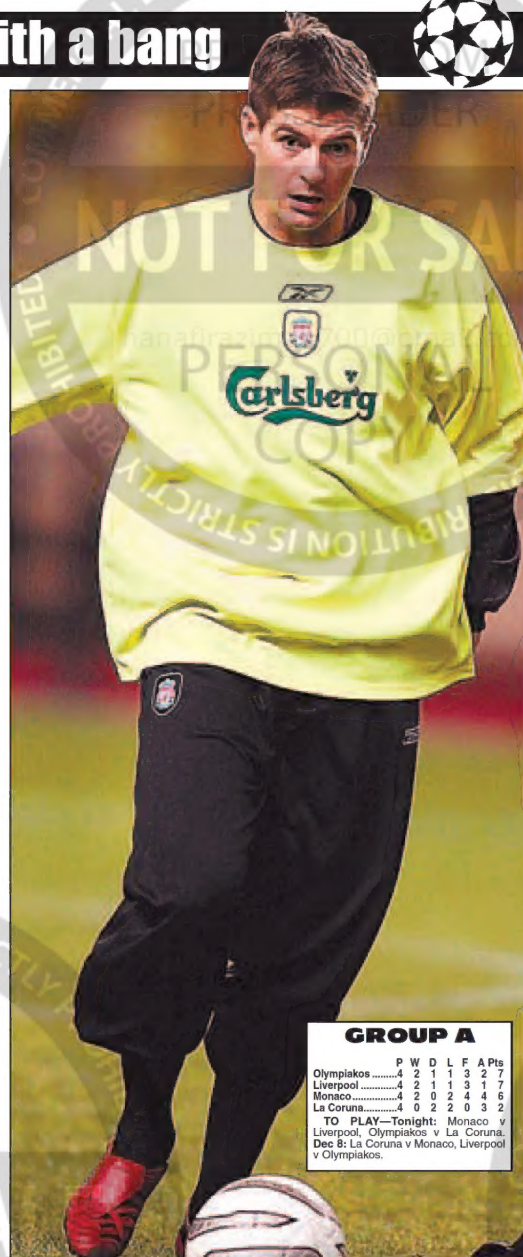
Style

"He is the leader of their team, a charismatic player," said former Chelsea star Deschamps, who is under pressure at Monaco following a dismal run of results.

"He has a huge influence on their team. Liverpool without Steven Gerrard just aren't the same. He encapsulates the whole team's energy with his style and sets the tempo."

"He can be one of the best players in Europe and the world. He's a typical modern player, a complete footballer."

MONACO (probable): Roma; Malcon, Squillaci, Givet, Evra; Zlotic, Perez, Pissal; Chevantoni, Nonda, Saviola
LIVERPOOL (probable): Kirkland; Josemi, Carragher, Hyypia, Traore; Risse, Finnan, Gerrard, Alonso, Kewell; Garcia.
REFEREE: Claus Bo Larsen (Denmark).



FIRE UP: Steven Gerrard looks sharp during training last night

GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Liverpool	4	2	1	1	3	1	7
Monaco	4	2	0	2	4	4	6
La Coruna	4	0	2	2	0	3	2

TO PLAY—Tonight: Monaco v Liverpool, Olympiakos v La Coruna.
Dec 8: La Coruna v Monaco, Liverpool v Olympiakos.



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United boss targets more silverware

FERGIE: EUR ONE I WANT

by BILL THORNTON and HOWARD WHEATCROFT

SIR ALEX FERGUSON has demanded more silverware from his Manchester United squad.

And even after winning eight Premierships, five FA Cups and the Champions Cup in his 18 years at Old Trafford – including the famous 1999 Treble – he is not happy. Success in Europe's premier competition is the true measure of greatness and Ferguson insisted: "We should expect to win it the same number of times as Bayern Munich (4), Ajax (4), and Milan (6).

"I divorce Real Madrid from that simply because the number of wins they have had – nine – is quite exceptional."

Ferguson also omitted four-times winners Liverpool from his list – but presumably that was just an oversight!

On the eve of tonight's visit of Group D leaders Lyon – with United needing victory to seal their place in the knockout stage – Ferguson is refusing to rest on his laurels.

The winning of the Treble five years ago would have been a more than satisfactory sign-off for most men.

Lucky

Fergie, though, couldn't hide his frustration at not winning the big one again. "The point I made then was accurate," he said. "In terms of the history of this club, we should be thinking in the same terms as the powers of Europe. There is no reason why not."

Reflecting on his 999 matches in charge, he claimed: "Of course I have changed. I'm not the same man I was 18 years ago. I have mellowed."

To illustrate his point, Fergie has insisted he won't be throwing teapots – or pizza – if United fail to beat Lyon tonight.

In fact, he says he's never thrown anything in anger after a defeat in his Old Trafford reign – and does not intend to start now.

"After 999 games I'm lucky, nothing will affect

**Man Utd
v Lyon
ITV – 7.30pm**

me," he said. "I've never thrown a teapot at United, not a single one. I've handed out plenty of bollockings, but no throwing."

"When I lost 18 years ago I took it badly, but I don't get my knickers in a twist any more and I handle defeat a lot better."

"I just try to make sure that it doesn't happen again by sorting it out on the training ground."

Stick

But Fergie does own up to an obsession that has earned him plenty of stick over the years – time at the end of matches.

He admitted: "When we are winning an important match I'll watch the referee for the last few minutes. "Sometimes I'm not even watching the game, I'm just wanting the whistle to go."

PROBABLE TEAMS – UNITED: Carroll; Gary Neville, Ferdinand, Silvestre, Heinze; Ronaldo, Keane, Scholes, Giggs; Rooney, Van Nistelrooy. **LYON:** Puydebois; Revellere, Diatta, Cris, Berthod; Diarra, Essien, Pernambuco; Govou, Malouda, Wiltord. **REF:** Kim Milton Nielsen (Den).



CHEERS: Fergie toasts glory ... in water

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	4	3	1	0	11	6	10
Man Utd	4	2	2	0	12	5	8
Fenerbahce	4	1	0	3	6	13	3
Sparta Prague	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

TO PLAY – Tonight: Sparta Prague v Fenerbahce, Man United v Lyon, Dec 8: Fenerbahce v Man United, Lyon v Sparta Prague.

Pic: JOHN DAWES

Vinnie crunch best of bunch

by HOWARD WHEATCROFT

HARDMAN footballer-turned-actor Vinnie Jones amazingly played a key role in the game Sir Alex Ferguson regards the finest of his 999-match reign at Old Trafford.

Far from the glitz and glamour of the Champions League, it is an FA Cup clash at Selhurst Park that he instantly recalls. Wimbledon were at the peak of their powers and hadn't been slow to boast of what they would do to United in the build-up to the fifth-round clash in February 1994.

Challenge

And Dons ace Jones set the tone in the first few minutes when he tried to cut Eric Cantona in half with a trademark crunching challenge. Fergie recalls: "Eric just got up and looked at him as if to say 'Oh it's you is it?', then got on with the game."

"And that set the tone for the afternoon. We were magnificent."

"People always talk about the Champions

League game against Juventus when we came from 2-0 down to go through to the final. And yes, it was a fantastic comeback, and the impetus we got when we were 2-1 down was unbelievable."

"But we made mistakes in that game to put us in that position in the first place – but we didn't at Wimbledon."

United simply proved they wouldn't be intimidated physically, then got on with the business of producing the flowing football that has been the trademark of Fergie's long and successful spell.

Goals from Cantona, Paul Ince and a stunning passing move that culminated in a wonderful Denis Irwin counter sealed a 3-0 success and United were on their way to their first Double under the Scot.

COCU TAUNTS SAD GUNNERS

PHILIP COCU believes Arsenal's current crisis will play into PSV Eindhoven's hands.

The Gunners face the Dutch League leaders in Holland tomorrow knowing that a victory is vital for their Champions League future.

The last time they took on PSV in Eindhoven Arsene Wenger's side won 4-1 but Cocu thinks Arsenal will be easier to beat after their confidence-sapping defeat by Manchester United.

He said: "Now is the time to beat them. In

September and October they were the spectacular team in Europe, but not now.

"This can only be good for us, and the fact Thierry Henry has stopped scoring."

"Arsenal will be playing with a lot of pressure. It is a final for both sides, but I am convinced that the three points will belong to PSV."

But he warned: "We know how dangerous they can be, especially on the counter-attack."

Madrid boss backs Becks

from PETE JENSON in MADRID

DAVID BECKHAM was backed by his Real Madrid boss last night in the row over whether he is being picked to play football or sell shirts and pay-per-view TV packages.

The England skipper was the prime target of the Spanish media after Real's 3-0 humiliation at deadly rivals Barcelona on Saturday, and they sneered that he had only started to please his army of Far Eastern fans who had paid to watch the game.

But Real coach Mariano Remon said: "To say anyone's place in the team is non-negotiable is absurd."

"He or any other player would be on the bench if I thought it was deserved and not because of any internal or external pressure."

"We are not going to concentrate all our bad points on one player, that would be tremendously unfair."

Faith

"Beckham has come back after six weeks out injured. Everyone knows what he means to Real Madrid and how important he was to us in the early weeks of the season."

Remon showed his faith by naming Beckham to start in tonight's Group B Champions League clash with Bayer Leverkusen. But Michael Owen is again on the bench for a game that will ensure Real's passage to the last 16 if they win.

5 FOR FUN

- 1 Zara Phillips, the Queen's grand-daughter, is currently dating which England rugby union international?
- 2 Carlton Palmer has been placed temporarily in charge of which Coca-Cola League club?
- 3 Windsor Park is an international football venue for which country?
- 4 In greyhound racing, what number does the dog in the black and white jacket wear?
- 5 Which former England fast bowler, who now works in the media, had the nickname 'Spito'?

ANSWERS: See Page 59

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7/2 W. Rooney (MU)	16/1 L. Miller (MU)
11/2 A. Smith (MU)	16/1 S. Wiltord (Lyon)
7/1 P. Scholes (MU)	18/1 H. Ben Arfa (Lyon)
9/1 D. Bellion (MU)	18/1 Bergapoulos (Lyon)
9/1 P. A. Fraiz (Lyon)	18/1 M. Essien (Lyon)
9/1 R. Giggs (MU)	18/1 D. Fletcher (MU)
9/1 C. Ronaldo (MU)	20/1 R. Keane (MU)
10/1 N. Naimar (Lyon)	20/1 F. Malouda (Lyon)
14/1 Juninho (Lyon)	6/1 No goalscorer
16/1 S. Govou (Lyon)	

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6/5 monaco v liverpool 9/5 draw 9/4

kick-off 7.45pm tonight, live on itv2

1st goalscorer

6/1 M. Kallon (M)	9/1 F. Sinama-Pongolle (L)
6/1 J. Saviola (M)	12/1 S. Gerrard (L)
13/2 S. Adebayor (M)	14/1 S. Carnahan (M)
13/2 E. Chevanton (M)	14/1 Antonio Nunez (L)
13/2 S. Nonda (M)	16/1 X. Alonso (L)
7/1 H. Kewell (L)	16/1 J. A. Rose (L)
15/2 N. Mellor (L)	6/1 No goalscorer
8/1 Luis Garcia (L)	

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Tiago's plea to gutted mates

by SIMON JOHNSON

CHELSEA star Tiago has urged his stunned teammates not to let Bolton's fightback damage their championship hopes.

The Portugal international admits all the players were left shell-shocked after Bolton came back from two goals down to get a point at Stamford Bridge.

It was the first time Jose Mourinho's side had conceded two goals in a match this season but Tiago told Chelsea TV the players have to forget about it and take their frustration out on Charlton at The Valley on Saturday.

Floor

He said: "We had the chance to go four points clear at the top of the table so it is a big big disappointment for us to draw at home against Bolton."

"Everyone in the dressing-room was disappointed and had their heads on the floor because we were winning and lost two goals."

"But we have to stay up and be strong. We are top of the league and for us it is a good motivation. We have to win the next match."

"I have never played against a team playing that kind of football. Every time they had a free-kick they put the ball high into the box."

"They were difficult from throw-ins and set-plays. We fight and the result is a shame but we have to live with that."

SERIOUSLY football

Nobby makes it six of the worst for Tottenham



HIGH JUMP: Tottenham's Timothee Atouba leaps above Aston Villa's Juan Pablo Angel last night

SPURS SOL DESTROYER

PERUVIAN star Nolberto Solano pulled off a piece of pure magic to send Spurs boss Martin Jol reaching for the panic button.

Solano lit up an otherwise forgettable game with a goal of stunning quality to fire Villa into fifth place in the Premiership.

His 57th-minute strike was pure sorcery. The little midfielder didn't look to have anywhere to go when Gavin McCann's flick-out from a Thomas Hitzlsperger corner fell to him with his back to goal six yards out.

Juggle

But he shimmied himself into position with a terrific juggle, looping the ball into the air with a superb double-touch before rifling the ball into the net.

Villa, seeking their third consecutive win for the first time in almost a year, were suddenly re-



by DAVE ARMITAGE
**Aston Villa...1
Tottenham...0**

talised and it Solano should have put them even further ahead just a couple of minutes later, only to be denied by a fantastic block from Paul Robinson.

Suddenly Spurs were on the back foot as they tried desperately to halt a run which has seen them plunge down the table.

But they could not find a way through as they slumped to a sixth successive defeat.

Jol's men went in at the end of a sedate first half cursing a missed chance shortly before the break.

Michael Brown was the culprit, failing to put in any sort of telling shot from an angle just six yards out with keeper Thomas Sorensen

at his mercy. Freddie Kanoute's incisive touch on had set Brown up and any shot of substance would surely have given Spurs the lead.

But he failed to give it anywhere near enough and the grateful Sorensen managed to block low down at his near post, leaving the visiting fans behind that goal gasping in disbelief.

Comic

How expensive that might have proved right on the stroke of half-time when teenage Villa star Steven Davis was just inches away from a glorious debut.

The Northern Irish midfielder lunged to meet Solano's cross from eight yards out but he just couldn't quite get in the header required and the ball flashed across the face of the goal.

Prior to that there hadn't been a lot to get excited about, though a comic set-piece routine by the visitors did bring smiles all

round. It might have been well rehearsed in training but someone forgot to tell referee Chris Foy to get out of the way of Michael Carrick's gently rolled free-kick.

And when Spurs striker Jermain Defoe pulled his foot back to strike the ball goalwards he ended up clattering into the man in black.

TEAMS

ASTON VILLA: Sorensen, De la Cruz, Mellberg, Delaney, Samuel, Solano, McCann, Davis, Hitzlsperger, Cole, Angel. Subs: Barry, Postma, Whittingham, Ridgwell, Luke Moore.
TOTTENHAM: Robinson, Naybet, King, Pamarot, Edman, Carrick, Pedro Mendes, Atouba, Brown, Defoe, Kanoute. Subs: Fulop, Keane, Redknapp, Ziegler, Davenport.
REF: C Foy (Merseyside).

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correct score		half time - full time	
Man Utd	Score	Lyon	Man Utd - Man Utd
13/2	0-0	13/2	Draw - Man Utd
11/2	1-0	8/1	Lyon - Man Utd
11/2	1-1	11/2	Man Utd - Draw
6/1	2-0	22/1	Draw - Draw
7/1	2-1	16/1	Lyon - Draw
14/1	2-2	14/1	Man Utd - Lyon
16/1	3-0	66/1	Draw - Lyon
8/1	3-1	58/1	Lyon - Lyon

first goalscorer	
7/2 R. van Nistelrooy (M)	15/2 S. Gorovan (L)
4/1 W. Rooney (M)	10/1 P. Scholes (M)
12/1 A. Smith (M)	12/1 C. Ronaldo (M)
15/2 R. Fraus (L)	12/1 R. Giggs (M)

(Others available on request)

Tonight's Other Champions League Matches (Kick-off 7.45pm unless stated)

HOME	DRAW	AWAY
2/9 B. Munich 5	6/1	Maccabi Tel Aviv 8/1
4/7 Dynamo Kiev 5	5/2	Roma 8/1
4/6 Juventus 5	8/4	Ajax 7/2
3/4 Monaco 17/2	11/5	Liverpool 7/4
10/11 Olympiakos 5	12/5	Deportivo 8/4
4/9 Real Madrid 5	13/5	B. Leverkusen 11/2
5/9 S. Preuss 5	11/5	Fenerbahce 11/5

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STARSPORE VERDICT: Walking off is not the answer

DON'T LET THE RACISTS WIN



IT will not be long before a Premiership match is abandoned because a manager has ordered his players off the pitch.

We just hope the game is called to a halt for the right reasons. The ongoing row over racism leaves football in a dangerous situation.

When does racial abuse reach a level to warrant calling a match off?

Certainly it was bad enough during England's match in Madrid last week, but there are those who think such a drastic decision would simply be bowing to the morons who dish out the abuse.

Also, is an isolated incident, like that suffered by Birmingham's Dwight Yorke at Blackburn on Sunday, enough for such huge disruption?

Crime

The club's PLC chairman David Sullivan admitted yesterday: "It was not the crime of the century."

No, it wasn't, but Sullivan's surprising and irresponsible remarks don't hide the fact that racial abuse aimed at black sportsmen, which clearly has been hiding just under the surface, is now back on our faces.

Society and sport has come a long way in the last decade in its bid to kick out racism and all that last week has done is bring it to a head again. It's proved there is a lot more hard work left before it's beaten. If ever.

Yorke would not tolerate such behaviour from another man walking down the street, so why should he inside a football stadium? The issue is, how does football beat it? Halting a game because one team refuses to play in front of a section of the crowd is the ultimate response.

It's what PFA chief executive Gordon Taylor supported when he flew home from Spain last week after witnessing the terrible abuse



by **BRIAN WOOLNOUGH**

LET'S KICK IT:
Fans get the message at Villa Park last night

hurled at England players Ashley Cole, Shaun Wright-Phillips and Jermain Defoe. Now FIFA president Sepp Blatter has said he would have supported the England team had they simply walked off the Bernabeu and into history.

We can only presume, therefore, that someone will take them up on their word.

It would take a sick person to call his players off because his side were losing, using racial taunts against one of his players as the reason.

Yet there is no question, following Blatter's comments, that a game is going to be abandoned.

Blatter didn't go far enough. What he should have done, as the most powerful administrator in the game, is lay down some guidelines. Should it be up to the coach, referee or a watching observer?

Taunts

Should the referee ask the player, like Wright-Phillips last week, if he wants to continue if the abuse is damaging his concentration?

FIFA must insist that referees have the power to call a halt if they believe racial abuse is damaging the game as a spectacle.

Also, what happens to the result and the points if it is a competitive game? Is the match replayed, does the score stand at the moment the players go off, and should a ground be emptied before a match restarts?

All these are issues for Blatter and he can't simply tell us he would support a team heading for the dressing-room. England coach Sven Goran Eriksson, so shocked at the level of abuse aimed at his

black players, is known to be worried about the prospect of an international side walking off for the wrong reasons.

It was inevitable the weekend would bring more abuse because of the publicity Madrid had given it.

The idiot at Blackburn who allegedly abused Yorke, making monkey noises and imitating an ape, clearly thought it would be clever to be a copycat.

Blackburn, Birmingham and the FA are holding an investigation into the Yorke incident and there will be others. The FA, who fiercely condemned the Spanish crowd, have to be seen to put their own house in order.

Target

Arsenal's visit to PSV Eindhoven tomorrow looks a prime target for the sick bigots who take some kind of enjoyment out of racist chanting.

In Holland, referees have the authority to call a halt to protect players from abuse.

I got an e-mail yesterday from someone complaining that I had called Spanish fans scum. He said I was a racist to use such a word.

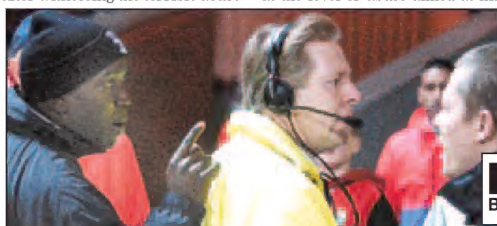
What chance have we got when there are people who defend what we have seen and heard over the last six days?

When I left the Bernabeu last week I thought a team walking off was the best solution, but there has to be a directive from the top.

I would like to see a club or association found guilty of having racist fans ordered to play behind closed doors for three matches.

Lack of revenue and sponsorship money would hopefully bring home the message. For at the moment, football carries on where anything goes. How bad does abuse have to become for a game to be called off?

Who makes the decision? And what happens then? Football needs direction otherwise a week of sickening racist behaviour will lead to even more controversy.



TROUBLE: Dwight Yorke remonstrates with a fan at Blackburn on Sunday

Yorke Blues snub

From Back Page
may prompt Yorke to consider leaving the club.
Sullivan said: "To me it's been blown out of all proportion. I heard absolutely nothing."

"I think you have to pick up on it and ban these people from the ground, but I just can't believe with all that's going on in the world, that it's that big a deal."

"If someone had made a racist comment to me, I would say it's not very nice and wish that they hadn't said it, but it isn't the crime of the century."

"If you said to me do you want someone to punch you in the face or make a racial comment, I'd take the racial comment."

Regret

"It was only when he was warming up - he could have run to the other end," added Sullivan, stressing that his views were personal ones.

A Blackburn club statement said: "We would like to stress that this was an isolated incident and that we deeply regret any embarrassment caused to Dwight Yorke and Birmingham City FC."

Birmingham managing director Karren Brady added: "Racism is awful and everyone wants to stamp it out of the game."

"It was a very small minority but regardless of how small, it's incredibly upsetting for a player."

Reid on elbow charge

■ by IAN WINROW

BLACKBURN midfielder Steven Reid has been charged with improper conduct by the FA after a clash with Birmingham's Danish winger Jesper Gronkjaer.

The pair were involved in a confrontation during the thrilling 3-3 draw at Ewood Park on Sunday.

And the Republic of Ireland international could now be set for a three-match ban after TV cameras appeared to show him dig his elbow into Gronkjaer's stomach.

Blow

Reid has until December 7 to lodge an appeal or face missing crucial games in Rovers' bid to ensure Premiership survival.

Meanwhile, Rovers' Yuri Djorkaeff's hopes of extending his stay at Blackburn have suffered a blow after the former France striker was ruled out for two weeks with a hamstring problem. Djorkaeff has failed to make an impact since arriving at Ewood on a short-term deal at the end of September.

He has made just three appearances and, with his contract due to expire in January, he quickly needs to prove his worth to boss Mark Hughes to earn an extension.



SHAUN: I WILL PLAY IN SPAIN

■ by BILL THORNTON

SHAUN WRIGHT-PHILLIPS has insisted he would play in the Spanish League - despite the racist abuse he received in Madrid.

The Manchester City star (above) took the brunt of the disgraceful behaviour of a section of the Bernabeu crowd during England's friendly with Spain last week.

Ironically, the following day the 23-year-old was linked with a transfer to either Real Madrid or their neighbours Atletico.

Spoil

But while City manager Kevin Keegan scoffed at the possibility of a move, the player said: "If I had to play in Spain, so be it. It wasn't nice to hear what their fans were doing but I have to let my football do the talking and not let it spoil what I do on the pitch."

Keegan insisted the midfielder star was not affected by his experience and Wright-Phillips produced a man-of-the-match display in City's 3-1 win at Portsmouth on Saturday.

He added: "I didn't take it personally and I have not let it affect me."



Spurs' six of worst

by DAVE ARMITAGE
Aston Villa 1 Tottenham 0

NOBBY SOLANO celebrates after striking the killer blow to send Spurs crashing to their **SIXTH** Premiership defeat in a row, at Villa Park last night.

New Spurs boss Martin Jol suffered a 5-4 home defeat last time out at home to Arsenal and at least looked to have tightened his defence as Tottenham reached half-time at 0-0.

But Solano struck with a sensational flick and sideways scissors kick in the 57th minute to send David O'Leary's men soaring to fifth in the table.

But for brilliant saves by Paul Robinson from Solano (twice) and Carlton Cole, Spurs would have been in for another bashing.

MATCH ACTION: Page 62



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BLUES CHIEF SNUBS YORKE



YORKE: Abused

by DAVE ARMITAGE

DWIGHT YORKE'S future at Birmingham is in doubt after club chairman David Sullivan sparked outrage over his race-row outburst.

Multi-millionaire porn baron Sullivan played down the abuse the striker got at former club Blackburn and suggested Yorke should have run to the other end of the ground.

Yorke was upset by fans who allegedly made monkey chants as he warmed up as a substitute just before coming on in Sunday's 3-3 draw at Ewood Park.

Probe

One fan was ejected and Lancashire police have launched a criminal investigation into the incident.

The FA are also conducting their own probe.

But, despite coming just days after the race-hate shame of Spanish fans in Madrid, Sullivan insisted Yorke's treatment wasn't "the crime of the century".

His refusal to follow the club's stance on the matter

Turn to Page 63